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CIA-RDP79T00975A030800010006-3

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 3 August 1978

CG NIDC 78/180

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 3 August 1978.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON: Situation Report

25X1 [] The Lebanese Army contingent attempting to move into southern Lebanon remains stalled at Kawkaba and under fire from Christian forces. According to a UN spokesman, Major Haddad, the Christian commander who is opposing the Army's move south, asked the UN to withdraw from the area so he could shell the Lebanese troops; the UN refused. In the suburbs of Beirut, meanwhile, the security situation continues to be shaky.

25X1 [] A meeting between Haddad and the Lebanese contingent reportedly was scheduled for yesterday morning, but there are reports that Haddad refused to attend. Haddad also has publicly announced his rejection of orders to return to Beirut, on the grounds that the government issued the orders under duress from Syria. Press reports quote Christian militiamen as saying that they will "fight to the finish" to block the Army's southward advance.

25X1 [] The Lebanese Government, having finally gone ahead with its long-postponed intention to move troops to the south, is now in a quandary over how to cope with its failure to make careful advance preparations. Israel has enough leverage over the militias to ensure their cooperation with the Lebanese Government but has been insisting that Haddad remain in place.

25X1 [] In Beirut, there was fighting between Syrian soldiers and Christian militias in several Christian areas Tuesday afternoon and evening, and at least one Syrian soldier was killed.

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BRIEF

Libya-China

25X1 [] Abdul Salaam Jallud, the number-two man in the
Libyan regime, will arrive in Peking tomorrow, according to
the New China News Agency.

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25X1 [] The Libyans maintain diplomatic relations with
Nationalist China--Taipei has an ambassador in Tripoli--and
Peking probably want []
25X1 [] discussions on changing Libya's China policy.
The visit fits well with Peking's efforts to challenge the So-
viets even in countries that have close relations with Moscow.

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[]
It is possible, however, that Tripoli simply
wants to use the trip to counteract the impression that it has
joined the Soviet camp. Because of the Libyans' poor relations
with the US, this is one of their few effective ways of remind-
ing Moscow that they want to remain "nonaligned" and are uncom-
fortable with either superpower. []

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